

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 00632 150917Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 L-03 H-01 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /084 W

-----150920Z 045273 /15

P R 150835Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7128

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0632

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ASEAN

SUBJ: US/ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS

REF: A. MANILA 2187, B. STATE 31347

1. DURING FEBRUARY 11 CONVERSATION WITH LEE CHIONG GIAM, MFA DIRECTOR FOR REGIONAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, E/C COUNSELOR RAISED SUBJECT, IN PARTICULAR JANUARY 27 STANDING COMMITTEE CONSENSUS ON FORMAL PROPOSAL BY U.S. APPARENTLY ANTICIPATING THIS INQUIRY, LEE URGED EARLY RESPONSE ON PART OF USG. WHEN E/C COUNSELOR STATED THAT U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD CONSULTATIONS IS POSITIVE BUT THAT WE DO NOT WISH TO PUSH ASEAN FASTER THAN IT IS PREPARED TO MOVE, LEE ASSERTED THAT NOW IS THE TIME. IN THE FIRST PLACE, ACCORDING TO LEE, ALL ASEAN COUNTRIES ARE FINALLY PREPARED TO MOVE AHEAD TOWARD FORMAL CONSULTATIONS. SECONDLY, SINGAPORE, WHILE IT STILL CHAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE, WISHES TO USE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO ENERGIZE THE ORGANIZATION. NOT ONLY IS SINGAPORE'S TIME IN THIS CAPACITY COMING TO A CLOSE, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT LEE ALSO PERCEIVED A BROADER REASON FOR MOVING AHEAD EXPEDITIOUSLY. HE REITERATED NOW STANDARD GOS THEME THAT ASEAN WAS TEN YEARS AHEAD OF SRV AND SHOULD TRY AND MAINTAIN THIS GAP IF NOT ACTUALLY INCREASE IT. THIS GOAL COULD BE ACHIEVED, HOWEVER, ONLY THROUGH REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT/ASSISTANCE OF NON-REGIONAL POWERS. IN FERVENT TERMS LEE STATED THAT SUCCESS OF ASEAN WOULD DETERMINE OUTCOME

OF COMPETITION BETWEEN CAPITALISM AND COMMUNISM IN SEA AND
"WE JUST CAN'T PERMIT ASEAN TO FAIL".

2. E/C COUNSELOR RESPONDED THAT THINGS SEEM TO BE MOVING WELL
AT THIS TIME BUT THAT WE WOULD PROBABLY WAIT TO SUBMIT FORMAL
PROPOSAL UNTIL MRS. MANOLO RETURNED TO HER POST IN EARLY MARCH
SINCE SHE HAD INDICATED THAT SHE HAD DEFINITE IDEAS ON HOW
SHE WISHED TO PROCEED. LEE INDICATED, SOMEWHAT RESIGNEDLY,
THAT THERE WOULD BE NO HARM IN DELAYING THINGS FOR A COUPLE
OF WEEKS. HOWEVER, HE AGAIN STRESSED ASEAN'S FAVORABLE DIS-
POSITION TOWARD CONSULTATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND ASSURED E/C
COUNSELOR IN STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS THAT ASEAN WOULD RESPOND
WARMLY TO A FORMAL NOTE FROM U.S.

3. COMMENT: REPORTED CONVERSATION OCCURRED PRIOR TO RECEIPT
OF REFTELS. WE CERTAINLY SEE NO HARM IN DELAYING SUBMISSION
OF NOTE (REF A) UNTIL MRS. MANOLO RETURNS AND CONCUR WITH
DEPARTMENT'S VIEW (REF B) THAT FORMAL NOTE SHOULD BE DELIVERED
IN MANILA (LEE EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR OUR FOLLOWING JAPANESE
FORMULA, I.E., SUBMISSION OF FORMAL NOTE DIRECTLY TO STANDING
COMMITTEE RATHER THAN THROUGH ASEAN INTERLOCUTOR). WE WAIT WITH
ANTICIPATION MRS. MANOLO'S INDICATION AS TO NEXT STEPS AND
ARE CURIOUS TO LEARN WHETHER SHE GAVE BIRTH TO SOMETHING IN
ADDITION TO A CHILD DURING HER MATERNITY LEAVE. HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SINGAP00632
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770053-0311
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770240/aaaabjgm.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MANILA 2187, 77 STATE 31347
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3318130
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, OCON, RP, US, ASEAN, (MANALO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cf384bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009